

CLAIMS

1. A method of displaying a video signal together with associated information comprising transforming the video from a first scanning raster to a second scanning raster having a different aspect ratio from the first, the transformation providing compensation for the aspect ratio change, and the transformed video occupying only part of the second scanning raster; and using some or all of the unoccupied part of the second raster to display the associated information.
2. A method of displaying a video signal together with associated information comprising transforming the video from a first scanning raster to a second scanning raster having a different aspect ratio from the first, the transformation providing compensation for the aspect ratio change, and the transformed video occupies occupying only part of the second scanning raster; and using a display device to display the associated information, said display device obscuring some or all of the unoccupied part of the second raster.
3. A method according to claim 1 where the first raster has a 16:9 aspect ratio and the second raster has a 4:3 aspect ratio.
4. A method according to claim 1 where the first raster has a 4:3 aspect ratio and the second raster has a 16:9 aspect ratio.
5. A method according to claim 1 in which the first raster is a high-definition raster and the second raster is a standard definition raster.

6. Downconversion apparatus for converting a high definition video signal into a standard definition video signal wherein the converted picture occupies less than the whole of the output scanning raster, and said apparatus using all or part of the unoccupied raster to display information associated with the video signal.

7. Apparatus according to claim 6 comprising a control input for changing the displayed information.

8. A display device for displaying information associated with an aspect ratio converted video signal, where the converted signal occupies less than the entire frame, intended said device to be placed in front of a video display, said display device, when in place, obscuring at least one eighth of the said video display's display area.

9. Apparatus for displaying a video signal with associated information, comprising a first input for receiving a video signal, a second input for receiving a data signal, means for converting the video from a first scanning raster to a second scanning raster having an aspect ratio different from the first such that the video occupies a first part of the second raster, and means for displaying the data in a second part of the second raster unoccupied by the video.

10. A method of monitoring a video signal, said method comprising:

receiving a video signal having a first scanning raster;

converting said video signal to a second scanning raster having a different aspect ratio to the first, the transformation providing compensation for the aspect ratio change, and wherein the transformed video occupies only part of the second raster;

associating a monitoring signal with said video signal; and

displaying said monitoring signal on some or all of the unoccupied part of the second raster.

11. Downconversion apparatus for converting a high definition video signal into a standard definition video signal, said apparatus comprising:

a video input for receiving a video signal;

means for converting said video signal such that the converted picture occupies less than the whole of the output scanning raster; and

a data input for receiving display information associated with the video signal to be displayed in all or part of the unoccupied raster.

12. Apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising a control input for selecting display information to be displayed in all or part of the unoccupied raster.

13. A method of operating a video control room, the method comprising:

receiving a video signal and an associated signal carrying video control information;

converting said video signal from a first scanning raster to a second scanning raster having a different aspect ratio to the first, the transformation providing compensation for the aspect ratio change, and wherein the transformed video occupies only part of the second raster; and

simultaneously displaying on a single monitor in the control room the converted video signal and said control information on some or all of the unoccupied part of the second raster.

14. A method according to claim 13, wherein said video control information is generated at the control room.

15. A method according to claim 13, wherein said video control information represents control room parameters.

16. A method according to claim 13, wherein said video control information represents external parameters.

17. A method of monitoring a plurality of video signals from a corresponding plurality of different sources, the method comprising:

converting each said video signal to a second scanning raster having a different aspect ratio to the first, the transformation providing compensation for the aspect ratio change, and wherein the transformed video occupies only part of the second raster;

deriving, for each video signal, a monitoring signal indicative of the source of that video signal; and

displaying said plurality of video signals on an array of monitors, including displaying on the unoccupied raster of a monitor, the monitoring signal associated with the video signal being displayed on that monitor.

18. A video monitoring system comprising:

a plurality of video inputs;

means for associating a monitoring signal with an input video signal;

a scan converter for converting an input video signal from a first scanning raster to a second scanning raster having a different aspect ratio to the first, the transformation providing compensation for the aspect ratio change, and wherein the transformed video occupies only part of the second raster; and

an array of monitors;

the system being adapted to display in the unoccupied raster of a monitor the monitoring signal associated with the video signal being displayed on that monitor.